



# THE STAR DUST

## DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

Jan-Feb 2014

### Mercedes-Benz Enthusiasts Dinner

Saturday January 17, 2015

By John & Roberta Phin

Car enthusiasts from around the World descend on Arizona every January and it is not because our fine weather allows them to keep their cars cleaner longer. No, it is because we have some of the World's best collector car AUCTIONS!! January brings the beautiful cars with the stunning prices or unbelievable bargains, and so much eye car-candy that many dazed auction attendees are seen wandering the desert for days. So how do the Desert Stars celebrate the Auction-mania? We get some beautiful cars to gawk at and we eat a great meal together and enjoy the fellowship of the group. And we'll add a sprinkling of information provided by classic and collector car experts. We will gather this year at [Maggiano's Little Italy](#), 16405 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ for a family style meal in a "room with a view". The view will be of new cars provided by Schumacher European, and as well as Club members' classic treasures. We will have a panel discussion amongst experts on up-and-coming collector cars. Andy Reid of HWI Motorsports, Dave Tobin from SL Market Letter, and Tim Suddard from Classic Motor Sports, will discuss the market in general with special emphasis on soon-to-be hot Mercedes models.

Join us at 5:30 PM on Saturday Jan 17. The dinner includes two appetizers, two salads, two pasta dishes, two entrees, and two desserts, plus Ciabatta Rolls, coffee, hot or cold tea, and sodas, all for \$55 per person. The registration form is included in this newsletter on page 8 and we require your paid registration by Jan 8, 2015. Call John and Roberta Phin at 480-272-8851 for more information. John and Roberta will make the arrangements at Maggiano's; please do not call the restaurant. We look forward to seeing you there.

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### Poker Run

Saturday February 21, 2015

By Harman & Susan Cadis

Get ready for some fun Poker Action! Don't worry you don't need to bet or bluff your way to the winners circle. Just enjoy the day driving to interesting places and eating goodies with your friends in the Desert Stars.

This year we have a great event planned – Interesting places to see, great Old West Arizona locations to explore. Along with enjoyable friends and fellow car enthusiasts. So put on your best cowboy jeans and boots (spurs not necessary) and join us a having a good time - Yee Ha!

We plan to start at 1:30 PM, Saturday Feb 21st at MB of Chandler and consume our way south (food and a wine tasting), stopping at interesting Old West Sites and end up at a great Old West restaurant for dinner.

The registration form is included on page 8. If you are interested in joining us, please complete the form and send it to Debbie Ichiyama with your payment. The registration fee includes goodies, prizes and "heavy hors d'oeuvres". A full bar is available, self-pay, and a restaurant should you wish to linger.

For more information contact Harman Cadis, at [Harman@FocusHOA.com](mailto:Harman@FocusHOA.com), or call us at 480-242-8087.



### Southwest Regional Event: Tequila Rose

By Steve Ross, Regional Director

When: March 20-22, 2015

Where: [Borrego Springs Resort and Spa](#), Borrego Springs, CA

Yes you read that correctly. The San Diego section has voted to host a Regional Event in March 2015. The event has been named return to Tequila Rose which was an historic regional event for the San Diego Section folks for many years. Many of you may recall this fun filled event with epic rallyes, gymkhanas, and fine dining. It is our intention to recapture those great fun-filled times.

Suitable trophies will be awarded befitting the Mercedes-Benz Marque for those who excel in the graded events. What do you get? Two nights in a deluxe room, plated dinner and loads of Mercedes-Benz fun!

Please see *Borrego Springs* on page 3

## President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

Happy New Year to all! 2014 was a great year for our Desert Stars, with great events attended by even greater members. 2015 will be even better.

As is traditional around this time of year, a few resolutions are in order. The first is to continue to build on our past successes. Events like the Poker Run Rally, Havasupai Rally, Tech Session, Star Nights and Holiday Party never fail to bring together old and new members, but there is certainly room on the calendar for other events. Keep an eye on The StarDust, our website, Facebook page and Twitter account. And of course keep an eye on emails with notices and announcements. Success comes from members like you attending the events others help setup. I'd love to see you out there at something new!

Second, this year we will continue to build on our long standing relationships with the local Mercedes-Benz community; the dealerships, service providers and vendors benefit us all. For the first time in many years, we plan to have activities that are coordinated with our three Phoenix area Mercedes-Benz dealership groups.

My final resolution, with the assistance of a fantastic Board of Directors and all the volunteer members, 2015 will be the best year ever for the Desert Stars section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.



*Debbie*

## Editors Comment

This electronic version of The StarDust has hyperlinks and email links. Click on the blue-colored font or advertisement graphics to easily explore and contact our supporters and members. - Matt

Jan-Feb 2014 Volume 51 Number 1

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## New Members, "Welcome!"

### October

Dave Deblois  
Paul Reuter  
John Trump

### November

John Bergquist  
John Carter  
John Hadad  
Sascha Janssen  
Barry Yedlin



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John & Roberta Phin  
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Debbie Ichiyama  
**Publicity / Webmaster:**  
Mark Ichiyama  
**News Letter Advertising:**  
Ken Borowitz  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
Matthew Crawford

## Star Night 2.0

By John and Roberta Phin

[Don & Charlie's – Friday February 6, 2015, at 6:00pm](#)

In keeping with the Desert Stars convention of Star Night 2.0 dinners at local restaurants that have been successful for many years, our February dinner will be at [Don & Charlie's Restaurant](#) in Scottsdale. Enjoy "American comfort food", such as prime steaks and barbecued ribs while seated at white linen draped tables surrounded by warm wood paneled walls and one of the largest sports memorabilia collections west of the Mississippi...just try to get near Don & Charlie's during Spring Training (That's baseball, folks!) This critically acclaimed restaurant has been successful for more than 30 years and they look forward to entertaining Desert Stars on Friday, February 6 at 6:00 PM. RSVP to John or Roberta at 480-272-8851 or [jgphin@cox.net](mailto:jgphin@cox.net). No need to call the restaurant as John will be making the necessary arrangements but do RSVP timely for this restaurant which is located at 7501 E. Camelback Rd. Scottsdale.

## MB Technical Features Demo & Dinner at Roaring Fork

By John and Roberta Phin

Sunday April 12, 2015

The newest generation of cars have innovations and technical advances that are designed to make your driving easier, more comfortable, more nimble and responsive, and most of all – safer! But technology is changing quickly, and for many of us, the plethora of options can be difficult to pick through. On Sunday April 12, at 3:30PM an MB expert will provide a full review of the newest technologies at the Scottsdale MB showroom in Scottsdale, AZ. And afterwards we will move across the street (and up the block) to the [Roaring Fork](#) restaurant and lounge, where we will have dinner... and the camaraderie of fellow MB members. Look for more information in the next newsletter, and in future email communications. Or contact John or Roberta Phin at 480-272-8851 or [jgphin@cox.net](mailto:jgphin@cox.net).

### *Borrego Springs* from Page 1

Schedule of events include: No host cocktail party Friday night, Saturday morning a gymkhana and at high noon a rallye through the Anza Borrego Blooming Desert, where you will see prehistoric life sized dinosaurs and other animals. Saturday evening an awards banquet where exquisite awards will be presented to the winning rallye teams and individuals excelling in the gymkhana. We hope to attract those legends of the track and rallye winners such as "Shoes" Matthew Crawford (the drivers driver), Chuck and Ava Stanford (Legendary rallye winners), Rudy Wokoek, (bartender extraordinary) and Bud Cloninger "Mr. Kool" to name but a few. We invite all Regions and Sections in the MBCA to come and show their stuff with the Southwest Region.

### Menu choices:

Top sirloin, with sweet onion and mushroom wine sauce, mashed potatoes and veggies du jour, OR Cuban Style Roasted Pork with steamed rice, black beans, fried plantations with mojo sauce, OR Red Snapper topped with tangy Veracruz Sauce, basmati rice and veggies du jour.



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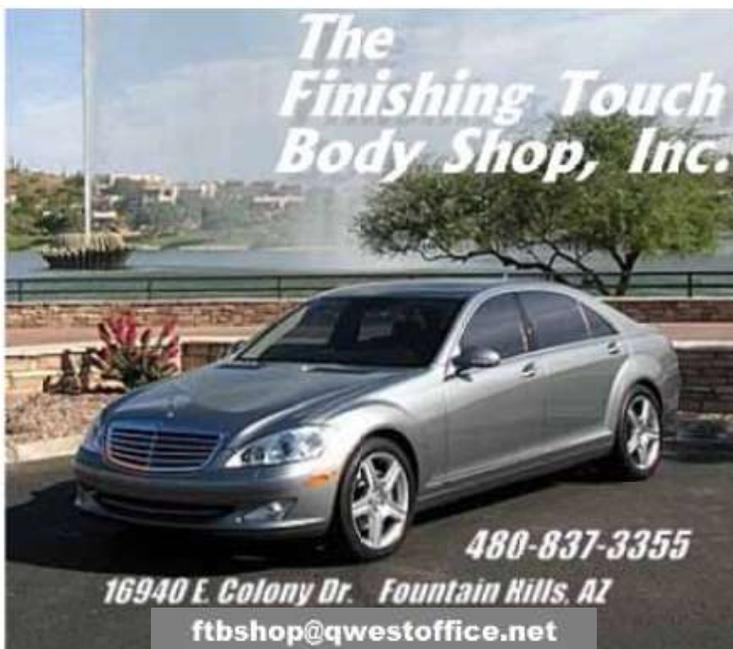
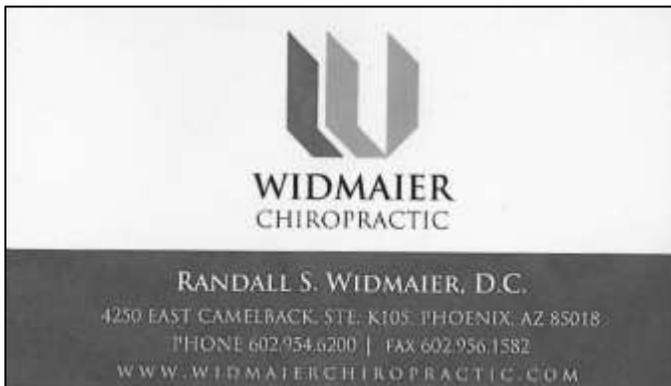
## In The Mirror: Chaco Canyon

By Dick Sharp

Chaco Culture National Historical Park is a United States National Historical Park, hosting the densest and most exceptional concentration of pueblos in the American Southwest. In October 17 Desert Stars members were fortunate and adventurous enough to experience this remarkable treasure in northwestern New Mexico. The park is located in a remote canyon cut by the Chaco Wash, and it preserves one of the United States' most important pre-Columbian cultural and historical areas.

Early Saturday morning the club members headed out in 3 Mercedes SUVs, a Suburban and a Pickup Truck to make the scenic 2 ½ hour drive. The last 30 miles were on an undulating dirt road, hence no SL's on this trip. Originally Dick and Mindy Sharp, the event organizers, were told that the group was too large to be accompanied by a Park Ranger, but when the Rangers saw what a great group they were, they volunteered to guide the group. Luck, or charm, resulted in a great and informative tour by a young ranger, leading the group through Pueblo Benito with extensive information about the Pueblo People and what historians have theorized about how they lived in the different structures in the area.

But the trip was not all rough roads and canyons. The group stayed at the historic El Rancho hotel in Gallup, N.M, which opened in 1937 as a base for movie productions. The hotel still has a beautiful lobby, and provided large rooms for guests. Friday evening there was a welcoming meeting in a three-room suite where the plans for the Saturday EARLY start were made. On Saturday evening dinner was in a private room at the Bad Lands Steak House. The group was laid back and friendly...making this very rewarding for the Sharp's work in organizing and leading this event. And perhaps this will inspire others to visit this unique and special part of our country. 



## Members and Our Shared Hobby



*Members Mindy and Dick Sharp recently visited Mark and Terry Passarelli at their home and Mercedes restoration shop, Hale Merced, located in a former coffee mill near the tiny village of Wai'ohinu on the Big Island, Hawaii. Among other projects, Mark is recreating the entire 1952 gullwing prototype. Mark and Dick sat in the chassis smiling and sharing the journey.*



# In The Mirror: US Grand Prix, Brunch at Tanzy

By John and Roberta Phin

In November Desert Stars met at Tanzy Restaurant in the Scottsdale Quarter for an excellent brunch and to watch the U.S. Grand Prix on a big-screen TV broadcast from Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. After starting in the 2nd grid position behind his teammate, Mercedes-Benz driver Lewis Hamilton passed and achieved a substantial lead over his Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg. Hamilton sustained the lead, winning this race. Mercedes further consolidated its Constructor's Championship with this one-two finish; in fact it was almost like watching two races – the two Mercedes out front and then the rest of the pack. Several Desert Stars members had attended Grands Prix around the World and were able to share their experiences and observations with the group. A fine time was had by all and interest in a repeat event next year was expressed. Thanks to Matt Crawford for suggesting this event!



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## In The Mirror: Holiday Party & Luncheon

By Matthew Crawford

What an awesome turnout we had for this year's Holiday Party on December 7! The day was warm and sunny and the venue was perfect. When we arrived, we were able to mingle on the patio prior to lunch as the restaurant set up the tables for our amazing lunch.

After a delicious meal Debbie started off the customary tradition of recognizing our member's anniversaries. She called upon our resident MC, Chuck Stanford to award our recognized members. He even managed to give brief bios they accepted their pins and posed for a photo. We then turned our acknowledgment to Roberta and John Phin (our esteemed activities directors) who together received our Members of the Year award. They work hard month in and month out for all of us and they really deserved the accolade. The rotating trophy will get its display on their mantle for the next year.

*Right: Debbie Ichiyama is presented with the SW Region Officer of the Year award for her work with the MBCA.*



*Below: Members await a fantastic lunch.*



The Desert Stars were lucky again this year in that one of our members was chosen to be the Southwest Region Officer of the Year. Steve Ross presented this to our own president, Debbie Ichiyama! Steve also had a well-deserved commendation for past president Bud Cloninger.

Thanks to all who brought a toy for Toys for Tots which were delivered to a Scottsdale Fire Station where the fireman expressed their gratitude and were impressed by how many toys we dropped off.

We had a 50/50 raffle to benefit Ronald McDonald House. Jim Munier who won the raffle donated his winnings back to Ronald McDonald house. That's the Christmas spirit indeed, and we thank him and all who participated in the raffle and donations.

This year's luncheon and party will be hard to beat! But next year we will give it our best of course. Our final recognition goes out to Zoran Kliskara and his fantastic crew at Tommy V's in Old town Scottsdale. They put their best foot forward and it really showed. Get back there as soon as you can. I know I will!



*Above: Roberta and John Phin accept the Member of the Year Award and the travelling trophy for their outstanding contribution in 2014.*

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**Registration Forms**

**MB Enthusiasts Dinner  
January 17, 2015**

**Please register and pay by January 8, 2015:**

**Contact Information:**

Name(s) registering: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: State/Prov.: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Day/ Night \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$55.00 per person. After Jan. 8 call John Phin for availability.

Call John and Roberta Phin with any questions at (480) 272-8851

Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:

MBCA Desert Stars c/o Debbie Ichiyama

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Credit Card payments available: Call Debbie Ichiyama at (480) 268-9535.

**Annual Poker Run  
February 21, 2015**

**Contact Information:**

Name(s) registering: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: State/Prov.: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Day/ Night \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$40.00 per person. For questions contact Harman or Susan Cadis 480-242-8087.

Registration forms should be mailed by February 10th, after that date, contact Harman for availability.

Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:

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Credit Card payments available: Call Debbie Ichiyama at (480) 268-9535.

**2015 Tequila Rose  
March 20-22, 2015**

**Contact Information:**

Name(s) registering: \_\_\_\_\_ Automobile \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Day/ Night \_\_\_\_\_  
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Cost is \$335.00 per couple or \$300.00 for a single. More info? Call Steve Ross 619-508-3925 or [inewsx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:inewsx@sbcglobal.net).

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**ENTRÉE Selection(choose one per attendee)**

- Top Sirloin # \_\_\_\_\_
- Cuban Style roasted Pork # \_\_\_\_\_
- Red Snapper Vera Cruz # \_\_\_\_\_

**Update your email address with The National Business Office**  
 Contact our Membership Chair, Debbie Ichiyama, at 480-268-9535 or  
[dichiyama@me.com](mailto:dichiyama@me.com)

**Classifieds**



1986 560 SEC 5.6 liter V8, Desert Red, 129,000 miles, one owner, all maintenance records and manuals, Arizona car, no salt, no accidents, resent repairs--- transmission, suspension, exhaust system, ignition system. Needs new tires. \$7,500.

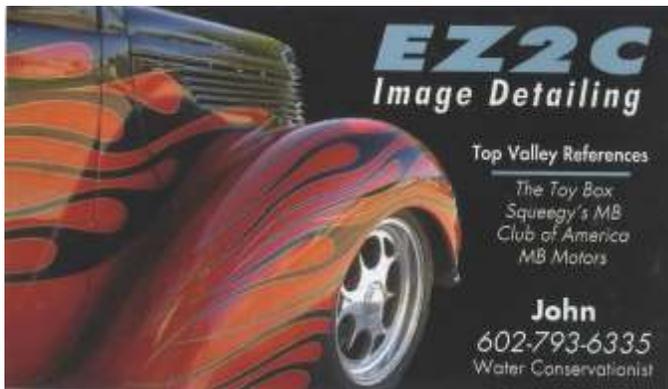
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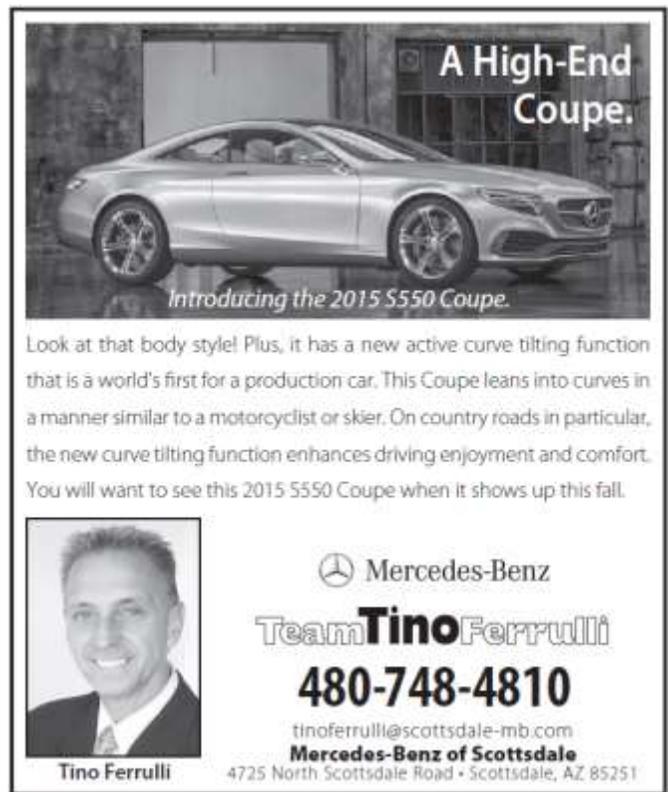
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**A High-End Coupe.**

*Introducing the 2015 S550 Coupe.*

Look at that body style! Plus, it has a new active curve tilting function that is a world's first for a production car. This Coupe leans into curves in a manner similar to a motorcyclist or skier. On country roads in particular, the new curve tilting function enhances driving enjoyment and comfort. You will want to see this 2015 S550 Coupe when it shows up this fall.



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## THE STARDUST

JAN-FEB 2015

### SAVE THESE DATES!!!

January 17, 2015	Saturday	MB Enthusiast Dinner - Maggiano's
February 6, 2015	Friday	StarNight 2.0 - Don and Charlie's
February 21, 2015	Saturday	Poker Run
Mar 20-22, 2015	Fri - Sun	Southwest Regional Event - Tequila Rose
April 12, 2015	Sunday	MB Technical Features Demo & Dinner at Roaring Fork
May 3, 2015	Sunday	Annual Meeting - The Gladly

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